

John J. Harvey when it served the FDNY and returned to service to help fight the fires at the World Trade Center for days on end) and Jessica DuLong (Assistant Engineer, who ensured constant smooth running of the engines) lent their valuable assistance to the effort. Throughout the 4 days, they were supported by Darren Vigilant of tugboat *Bertha*, (who ferried supplies from Pier 63 Maritime) and by John Kreyve and his team at Pier 63 Maritime (who provided an unending supply of provisions).

John J. Harvey is once again docked at Pier 63 Maritime where visitors to New York can learn more about his heroic tale of a once scrap yard-destined firefighting vessel that came back to help save New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly salute the firefighting vessel *John J. Harvey* and her crew. May they be forever remembered for their courageous efforts on September 11, 2001.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. GEORGE
KOTCHNIK

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and contributions of one of my constituents, Mr. George Kotchnik. Mr. Kotchnik retired from the city of San Gabriel's Parks and Recreation Department on December 31, 2001.

A life long resident of the San Gabriel Valley, Mr. Kotchnik is a true local hero who deserves our respect and commendation. His work with the city's Parks and Recreation Department included 32 years as director, during which he played an important role in enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

Under Mr. Kotchnik's leadership, the city of San Gabriel's parks and public facilities improved significantly. One example is the Smith Park expansion. Smith Park has been expanded to twice its size, creating more green space for residents of all ages to enjoy. Smith Park's design incorporated certain architectural features that paid tribute to the Gabrielino-Tongva Indians, the original inhabitants of this region.

The Park's expansion was such a success, it garnered the California Parks and Recreation Society's 2001 Award of Excellence for park design. Mr. Kotchnik and the San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Department have also won the Gold Shield Award for outstanding achievement on two occasions from the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation.

Under his leadership, the parks and recreation department renovated and expanded the city's Adult Recreation Center, collaborated with local high schools to add park facilities at school districts, and recently began development of a skate park at a San Gabriel high school.

After 40 years of service, Mr. Kotchnik retired at the end of 2001, but his contributions will not be forgotten. He has left an enduring impression on the city of San Gabriel and its residents. I am proud to recognize Mr. George

Kotchnik's accomplishments and wish him much happiness in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ADELA GONZMART

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Adela Gonzmart, the matriarch of Ybor City's famed Columbia Restaurant, who will long be remembered across the State of Florida and the nation for her compassion for others and her efforts to preserve the vibrant culture of Tampa and Ybor City.

As a child prodigy on the piano, Adela nurtured her talent and soon became a concert pianist, traveling with her husband across the world to share their music. In 1953, the Gonzmarts returned to Tampa and soon took over operation of Adela's father's restaurant, the Columbia.

The Gonzmarts turned the Columbia Restaurant into a successful enterprise and used the family business as a means to contribute to the Ybor community. Adela and her husband hosted countless charity fundraisers at the Columbia and served as patrons for the Tampa art community. Adela helped form the Tampa Symphony Orchestra, now the Florida Symphony Orchestra, and organized the Ballet Folklórico of Ybor City, a dance company inspired by Ybor's Cuban, Spanish and Italian culture.

However, Adela was best known for her enormous heart. Adela never met a stranger and anyone who stepped foot into her restaurant could not help but feel like family. She loved sharing stories of her family and their Spanish and Cuban heritage. Adela's devotion to her community, her two sons and, her eight grandchildren is an inspiration to us all.

Monsignor Lawrence Higgins, who presided over Adela's funeral, described her as "the queen of Ybor City and all the town." I can think of no better tribute. Tampa has truly lost a piece of its rich history in the passing of Adela Gonzmart.

On behalf of the people of Tampa Bay, I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathies to Adela's family. Adela was, and will continue to be, larger than life to all of us who knew her, deeply cared for her, and respected her. Thankfully, her legacy will flourish with her sons, Richard and Casey, and their families as they build upon their proud family tradition of operating the Columbia Restaurant and serving our community and State in countless ways.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, because of official business for my District (27th Congressional District of Texas) I was absent for rollcall votes 1-5. If I had been present for these

votes, I would have voted as indicated: Rollcall No. 1, present; rollcall 2, yea; rollcall 3, yea; rollcall 4, yea; and rollcall 5, yea.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SYDNEY
CHARLES LOCKWOOD

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding public servant, Mr. Sydney Charles Lockwood of the Passaic Public Schools, who was recognized on Friday, October 26, 2001 for his lifelong dedication to education.

As a former Passaic County educator, I take particular pride in exercising my ability to honor Mr. Lockwood in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth. He is more than deserving as he has a long history of caring, generosity, and commitment to his noble profession.

From the beginning of his 40-year career in education, which began as an undergraduate at Montclair State University, Sydney Lockwood has been a leader. A member of Montclair State's chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the National Honor Society for Education, Sydney was named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

After receiving his Master's Degree from Montclair State in 1965, Sydney moved on to Columbia University's prestigious Teacher's College to pursue his post-graduate education. Immediately playing integral roles in Columbia's pivotal research projects, Sydney Lockwood participated in the Columbia University Curriculum Life Skills Project and served as a member of Columbia University's Task Force that evaluated the failing Washington, DC school system.

The City of Passaic first saw Sydney's dedication to education and capacity for leadership while he served as an English and Social Studies teacher at Lincoln Middle School. He quickly was promoted to Head Teacher at Pulaski School No. 8 and then to Principal of Roosevelt School No. 10 from 1974 to 1995. Sydney's final post with the Passaic Public Schools was as Principal of School No. 2 from 1995 until June of 2001.

By devoting over forty years of his life, the last twenty-seven as a principal, to the children of the City of Passaic, Sydney Lockwood has done so much for so many. While his retirement has caused great sadness in the Passaic Public Schools, it also has been a time for celebration, as all those touched by Sydney have honored his career of public service.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Sydney Lockwood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Passaic Public Schools, the City of Passaic, Sydney's family and friends, all the students who have been touched by Sydney over his career both inside and outside of the classroom, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service of Mr. Sydney Charles Lockwood.